

Statistics Weekly

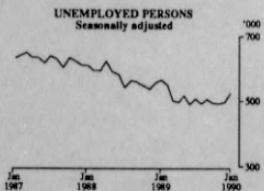
Thursday, 15 February 1990

The week in statistics ...

- Strong labour force growth despite fall in full-time employment 2
- Professional and business services 3
- Import commodity details 4
- New lease finance continues to fall 4
- Help for Census users 5
- All the week's releases: 7 to 13 February 6
- Calendar of key releases up to 27 February 7
- The latest ...
 - key State indicators 7
 - key national indicators 8

Strong labour force growth despite fall in full-time employment

Despite a fall of 12,500 in full-time employment (seasonally adjusted), gains in both part-time employment and unemployment in January resulted in a marked rise of 52,700 persons in the labour force.



The increase took the seasonally adjusted labour force participation rate to 63.8 per cent in January — its highest level since the national labour force survey commenced in 1966. (The 'labour force participation rate' is the proportion of the civilian population over the age of 15 who are in the labour force.)

In absolute numbers, again after seasonal adjustment, this means there were 8.4 million Australians either employed or unemployed in January.

The record level of participation was mainly a result of strongly increased female participation. The female participation rate exceeded 52 per cent (seasonally adjusted) for the first time in January, and was more than one percentage point higher than the January 1989 estimate.

Total employment rose by 25,200 in January to 7,870,800 (seasonally adjusted), principally as a result of an increase of 37,600 in part-time employment.

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployment for January was 524,100, a statistically significant increase of 27,600 since December 1989. The main component of this rise was an increase of 10,100 in the number of females looking for full-time work.

The January estimate of the unemployment rate was 6.2 per cent, seasonally adjusted, a rise of 0.2 percentage points since December 1989. The rate for males rose 0.2 percentage points to 5.8 per cent, while that for females rose 0.4 percentage points to 6.9 per cent.

LABOUR FORCE ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed					Unemployment rate — per cent —
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total	Unemployed	Participa-	
	— '000 —			ment rate	tion rate	
1989 —						
October	6,183.4	1,622.6	7,806.0	494.2	6.0	63.3
November	6,225.6	1,617.2	7,842.8	491.5	5.9	63.5
December	6,217.0	1,628.6	7,845.6	496.5	6.0	63.5
1990 —						
January	6,204.5	1,666.2	7,870.8	524.1	6.2	63.8

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Don Clark (062) 52 6525.

Professional and business services

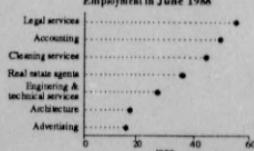
Summary findings from a new ABS survey of twelve major professional and business service industries are now available.

The survey was conducted for the first time in 1987-88, and found that the twelve industries surveyed (see table) employed about 310,000 people, or about 4 per cent of total civilian employment.

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICE INDUSTRIES, 1987-88

Industry	Enterprises	Employment at end		Net operating surplus
		June 1988	Turnover	
	No.	No.	\$m	\$m
Accounting services	6,048	49,510	2,334	497
Advertising services	2,390	16,051	4,675	147
Architectural services	4,534	17,777	1,030	185
Cleaning services	4,181	44,324	622	81
Computing services	3,691	24,067	1,628	78
Debt collecting and credit reporting services	234	2,669	142	12
Engineering and technical services	5,186	28,357	1,716	223
Legal services	6,459	55,408	3,069	884
Pest control services	565	2,902	135	25
Real estate agents	5,741	36,408	2,201	356
Security/protection and business services, n.e.c.	1,087	25,483	837	120
Surveying services	1,104	6,878	309	46

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICE INDUSTRIES
Employment in June 1988



The legal, accounting and real estate industries were found to be largest in terms of operating surplus. In terms of employment, the cleaning industry was also relatively large but the majority of its 44,000 persons employed were part-timers.

The summary statistics just released also contain details such as wages and salaries and type of employment. Separate statistics are provided for each State and Territory.

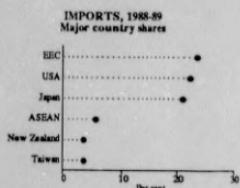
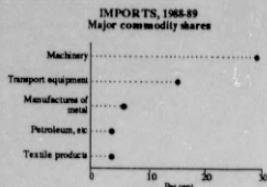
More detailed statistics will be released progressively during 1990 for each of the industries covered. They will include, for example, information on business expenses, items contributing to turnover, profitability, and operating ratios such as profit per principal or partner in the 'professional' industries.

The detailed releases will enable businesses to compare their own financial results with averages for similar businesses or professionals.

To be included on a mailing list for these future publications, please advise Peter White, Service Industries Surveys (PO Box 10, Belconnen ACT 2615).

Import commodity details

Imports for the year ended June 1989 were \$47,064 million, an increase of 16 per cent when compared with the previous year.



Australia's imports came mainly from:

- the European Economic Community \$10,776 million (23%, down slightly from 24% in 1987-88);
- the USA \$10,129 million (22%, compared with 21% in 1987-88); and
- Japan \$9,766 million (21%, up from 19% in 1987-88).

These statistics and other details of Australia's commodity imports were recently released in *Imports, Australia: Annual Summary Tables* (5426.0).

Details at a finer level of classification for both exports and imports are available from various ABS microfiche, magnetic tape and floppy disk products. In particular, detailed information is available on a timely basis from the Foreign Trade Special Returns Service in a format tailored to user requirements.

For further information, order the publication Imports, Australia: Annual Summary Tables (5426.0), or contact Information Services on one of the telephone numbers shown on page 6.

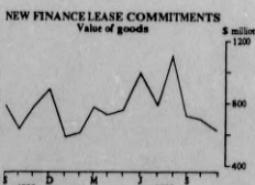
New lease finance continues to fall

Commitments to new lease finance fell in value for the third consecutive month in November 1989, despite the month being a five-week reporting period for some banks.

At \$624.9 million, new lease financing for the month was the lowest total since February 1989. However, commitments for the first five months of 1989-90, at \$3,930 million, were 13.2 per cent higher than for the same period in 1988-89.

New cars and station wagons are the main items subject to finance leasing. They accounted for about 29 per cent of all commitments in 1988-89 and this position was continuing in the present financial year, with \$960 million worth leased in the five months to November.

As shown in the table on page 5, finance leasing is provided mainly by finance companies, which accounted for 54.9 per cent of all commitments in November 1989, and banks, with 34.7 per cent.



NEW FINANCE LEASE COMMITMENTS, NOVEMBER 1989

\$ million

	Banks	Money market corporations	Finance companies	General financers	Total lessors
Motor cars —					
New	29.7	16.9	126.8	7.9	181.2
Used	7.0	0.1	34.0	1.7	42.7
Trucks —					
New	20.3	5.8	46.5	0.7	73.3
Used	6.1	0.1	20.2	0.2	26.5
Automatic data processing equipment and office machines					
	17.6	3.2	17.8	13.5	52.0
Other items	136.2	12.5	97.7	2.8	249.3
Total	216.7	38.5	343.0	26.7	624.9

For further information, order the publication *Lease Finance, Australia* (5644.0), or contact Mark Dennis on (062) 52 7117.

Help for Census users

A new ABS publication has been released to help users interpret statistics previously published from the 1986 Australian Census of Population and Housing.

Information on the coverage achieved by the Census data was obtained from a survey that was carried out a few weeks after Census night and which used different collection personnel and methods. The survey measures the Census 'undercount' — a technical term referring to the net result of double-counting some persons on Census night and missing others.

While undercounting on a small scale is inevitable in an exercise as massive as the Census, it is important to measure its extent. A major reason is to improve the quarterly estimates of resident population, estimates which are used not only for such fundamental purposes as electoral distribution and allocation of government funds, but also as the base for much economic, demographic and social research.

A second important reason is to provide users of the Census data — and the ABS receives 50,000 inquiries relating to Census data each year — with estimates of the undercount.

The publication, called *Census 86: Data Quality — Undercount*, shows that the undercount for the 1986 Census was less than 300,000 people, or 1.9 per cent of the Australian population.

As readers may expect, the undercount was highest in the Northern Territory, and among people not at their usual residence on Census night.

Interestingly, the undercount of people born in New Zealand was also well above the national average.

For further information, order the publication *Census 86: Data Quality — Undercount* (2607.0), or contact Jenny Dean on (062) 52 5854.

All the week's releases: 7 to 13 February

General

Publications Issued in January 1990 (1102.0; \$5.00)

Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., January 1990 (1304.0; \$17.50)

Statistics Weekly, 8 February 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)

Economic Indicators, Vic., January 1990 (1307.2; \$5.00)

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Vic., 30 June 1988 (3207.2; \$11.50) — new issue

Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, Vic. — Data on Floppy Disk, 30 June 1988 (3208.2; \$60.00) — new issue

Estimated Resident Population and Area, Qld, 1989, Preliminary (3201.3; \$5.00)

Social statistics

Health and Welfare Establishments, Qld, 1988-89, Preliminary (4301.3; \$3.30)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Investment, Aust., September Qtr 1989 (5306.0; \$15.00)

Commercial Finance, Aust., October 1989 (5643.0; \$5.00)

Lease Finance, Aust., November 1989 (5644.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., January 1990, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.50)

The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, January 1990 (6271.0; \$60.00)

Agriculture

Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, December 1989 (7204.3; \$3.30)

Crops and Pastures, Qld, 1987-88 (7321.3; \$16.00)

Agriculture, WA, 1988-89 (7113.5; \$12.50)

Agricultural Land Use and Selected Inputs, WA, 1988-89 (7411.5; \$11.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

Production of Clothing and Footwear, Aust., October 1989 (8358.0; \$8.50)

Professional and Business Services, 1987-88, Summary (8662.0; \$8.00) — new issue

Building Approvals, NSW, December 1989 (8731.1; \$8.60)

Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, September and October 1989 (8741.1; \$8.10)

Manufacturing Establishments, NT, 1987-88 (8206.7; \$3.00)

Tourist Accommodation, NT, September Qtr 1989 (8635.7; \$8.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, December 1989 (9303.3; \$5.50)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, December 1989 (9303.5; \$5.50)

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Tas., December 1989 (9303.6; \$4.50)

Inquiries

The ABS supplies statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
(062) 52 6627
FAX (062) 53 1404

ABS State Offices

NSW (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

The Editor
Statistics Weekly
(062) 52 6917

Calendar of key releases

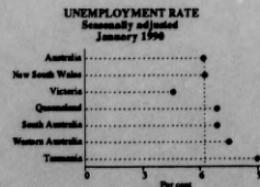
Expected releases over the fortnight to 27 February 1990

- [19] Retail Trade, Aust., December 1989 (8501.0; \$8.50)
- [26] Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., December 1989 (5609.0; \$8.00)
Export Price Index, Aust., December 1989 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, December 1989 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Production Statistics, Aust., January 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
- [27] Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, December 1989 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced By Manufacturing Industry, Aust., December 1989 (6412.0; \$6.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

13 February 1990



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Sept. qtr 89)*	15.9	24.8	15.2	0.0	45.4	-26.7	n.a.	n.a.	21.1
Retail turnover (Nov. 89) (trend estimate)	11.9	4.6	10.8	5.6	12.0	9.1	n.a.	6.3	9.3
New motor vehicle registrations (Dec. 89)*	-9.6	13.3	-2.6	3.8	-8.2	n.a.	-8.4	11.4	-1.0
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Dec. 89)	-35.6	-31.7	-31.9	-1.4	-36.4	-32.4	109.7	-28.9	-31.2
Value of total building work done (Sept. qtr)	20.5	25.8	28.1	30.9	36.5	18.2	1.8	6.4	24.8
Employed persons (Jan. 90)*	2.8	5.2	5.5	3.1	1.2	7.7	0.0	5.5	3.9
Capital city consumer price index (Dec. qtr 89)	7.4	8.5	7.7	7.5	7.8	7.4	7.5	6.5	7.8
Average weekly earnings (full- time adult ordinary time) (August 89)	10.6	6.9	5.8	7.6	5.8	6.7	4.5	7.5	8.0
Population (June 89)	1.1	1.3	3.2	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.2	1.6	1.6
Room occupancy rates in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 89)	-3.5	-0.7	-12.6	15	3.5	4.5	0.9	-10.0	-3.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)

The latest ...

Key national indicators - consolidated to 13 February 1990

		Latest figure available			Percentage change (a) on	
		Period	Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	89,803 63,134	89,733 63,732	1.8 0.7
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	7,152 5,544	7,413 5,755	0.0 -1.8
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to Dec. 89	8,493	n.a.	n.a.	11.3
Retail turnover	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	Nov. 89	7,197 14,280	6,939 14,788	2.2 0.9
New motor vehicle registrations	No.	Dec. 89	47,168	49,351	-3.7	-1.0
Dwelling unit approvals	"	Dec. 89	9,597	11,041	-7.7	-27.7
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,622	1,810	-16.2	-25.5
Value of total building work done	— current prices — 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 89	7,973 5,257	7,583 4,999	-1.8 -3.9
Manufacturers' sales	"	Sept. qtr 89	36,369	35,389	1.5	14.0
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Three months to Dec. 89	37,447	n.a.	n.a.	9.6
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Jan. 90	7,712.5	7,870.8	0.3	3.9
Unemployment rate †	%	"	6.7	6.2	0.2	-0.7
Participation rate †	"	"	62.8	63.8	0.3	0.8
Job vacancies	'000	Nov. 89	62.7	66.0	-0.6	-6.0
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.6	1.5	-3.0	7.7
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Dec. qtr 89	200.7	n.a.	1.9	7.8
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0	Nov. 89	118.0	n.a.	0.2	8.2
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	"	566.6	n.a.	0.6	7.0
Company profits before income tax	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	4,846	4,667	-3.6	14.1
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	August 89	508.40	n.a.	1.5	8.0
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Dec. 89	17.80	n.a.	-0.4	2.6
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	12.90	n.a.	-0.2	-0.2
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Dec. 89	4,155	4,012	-0.9	15.4
Imports of merchandise	"	"	3,653	4,010	-8.1	1.0
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	502	2	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	159	-462	39.0	32.7
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-908	-1,622	9.5	2.0
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 89	n.a.	108.2	-2.8	3.0
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 89	110,329	n.a.	1.9	14.7
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	147,716	n.a.	3.5	15.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
\$US per \$A	May 1970 = 100.0	Dec. 89	0.7859 60.7	n.a. n.a.	0.4 -0.2	-8.5 -3.5
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	June 89	16.8	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	'000	Nov. 89	193	170	3.2	-5.1

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

